## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REP	ORT		
	Soviet Plans for Re	organization of DAI	E DISTR.	2 April	. 1953
SUBJECT	the Artillery		. OF PAGES	10	
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	THE SOURCE EVEN THE AL	VALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DE PPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)	FINITIVE.		25)

- 1. On 23 January 1953, General Vaclav Kratochvil, Chief of General Staff and Deputy Minister of National Defense, received a direct order from Moscow to begin at once the reorganization of the artillery along the lines set forth by the Soviet Military Mission. Minister for National Defense Alexej Cepicka Wished further discussion on the matter, but it appears that the Soviets deliberately by-passed him.
- 2. In response to the Soviet 6rder, Kratochvil summoned General Josef Malec, Chief of Artillery, to Prague and ordered him to begin work on the plan at once. During World War II, Malec served lin the 38th Soviet Army with the I Czechoslovak Corps, and was present at the battles of Gorlice and Jaslo. He set up the Czechoslovak artillery from cadres of the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Artillery Regiments, which were present at Jaslo.
- 3. Within the government, Malec is supported by the Minister of Light Industry, Albis Malek. The latter lived in the USSR for 20 years and was a member of the government of the Kirgiz Soviet Socialist Republic. In his office he speaks only Russian.
- 4. It is expected that the 1st Artillery Regiment will soon leave for the USSR and it is expected to be quartered at Vitebsk. Several artillery units are to be reorganized into the new antiaircraft formations to which the Soviets have given priority. An important center for the formation of antiaircraft units will be established at Levoca (R 50/D 88).
- 5. After the intiaircraft artillery, the mountain artillery will be concentrated in Slovakia, with a center at Stary Smokovec in the Tatry Mountains, where security troops have previously been trained.

## 25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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